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Chillies.—A copy [a] of a letter from the Southern India Chamber of Commerce, dated 15th July 1931, and its enclosure is attached.

Tobacco leaf and jaggery.—A statement [b] showing the wholesale prices of tobacco leaf and jaggery in Madras City for each fortnight of faslis 1336—1340 is attached.

Forest Panchayats

Protest against the enhancement of grazing fees in Forest Panchayats.

* 256 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the ryots of Kudligi in meeting assembled have sent a representation protesting against the enhancement of grazing fees in Forest Panchayats to 6 annas per cow unit and praying for the removal of the ban on grazing in panchayat areas during the months of May and June and if so, how the representation has been disposed of?

A.—The Government have received a copy of the resolutions passed at a meeting of the ryots of the Kudligi taluk held in July last. One of the resolutions relates to the subject mentioned by the Honourable Member. No action was taken on the resolution itself, but the question of grazing fees is under enquiry in another connexion. Under paragraph 6 (*a*) (iii) of the Standing Order on Forest Panchayats the period of closure of forests to grazing is fixed in consultation with the panchayats.

Diwan Bahadur M. GOPALASWAMI MUDALIYAR:—"May I ask whether there was any consultation with the forest panchayats before the rates were enhanced? There is a feeling, Sir, that this enhancement works very hard."

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I have have no information whether the enhancement works very hard."

Fees for grazing permits issued to the villagers of Gadiganur, Hospet taluk.

* 257 *Q.*—Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the scale of fees at which the villagers of Gadiganur, Hospet taluk, Bellary district, have to take out licences for grazing their sheep and cattle in the panchayat forest and whether it differs from the scale in force in the neighbouring villages of Tornagal, Papinayakanahalli, and, if so, to what extent and why; and

(*b*) the number of cow units up to which the Gadiganur Forest Panchayat was allowed to issue permits in the previous years and the number to which they have been restricted now, and if the number has been reduced, why?

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a Printed as Appendix V on pages 139-141 infra.

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A.—(*a*) The rate of grazing fees in force in the Gadiganur panchayat forest, Hospet taluk, Bellary district, was 4 annas per cow unit until 1st July 1931. With the consent of the Panchayat the rate was raised from 1st July 1931 to 6 annas, which is the departmental rate. The rate obtaining in the neighbouring panchayats of Tornagal and Papinayakanahalli is 4 annas per cow unit, the current agreements executed by these panchayats which provide for this rate remaining in force until 30th June 1933.

(*b*) Prior to 1st July 1930 the grazing limit was 2,000 units. It was reduced in 1930–31 to 1,680 with the consent of the panchayat in order to prevent over-grazing.

Irrigation

Repairs to the irrigation tanks in the Chingleput district.

* 258 *Q.*—Rao Sahib C. Jayaram Nayudu: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total expenditure incurred by the Government on the repairs to the irrigation tanks in the Chingleput district during each of the last three years:

(i) in respect of those maintained by the Public Works Department,

(ii) in respect of those maintained by the Revenue Department;

(*b*) what is the total number of such tanks maintained by the Public Works Department in each of the taluks of the Chingleput district; and

(*c*) what amount has been allotted for the repair and maintenance of such tanks by the Public Works Department in 1931–32?

			RS.
A.—(*a*)	(i)	1928–29	44,335
		1929–30	57,630
		1930–31	57,811
	(ii)	1928–29	79,132
		1929–30	79,372
		1930–31	86,618

(*b*)	Madurantakam	92
	Conjeeveram	95
	Chingleput	106
	Saidapet	62
	Sreeperumbudur	60
	Tiruvallur	96
	Ponneri	105
	Total	616

(*c*) Rs. 1,46,340.